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OBSERVATIONS ON THE CLIMATE, &c. OF SANTA CRUZ. BY JOSEPH TUCKERMAN, D.D.

To John C. Warren, M.D.

Boston, June, 1837.

My DEAR SIR,-I avail myself of the earliest opportunity of my return from Santa Cruz, to bring together the few notes which I took there with a special view to the information of any invalids, who might think of passing a winter in that island for the recovery of their health. It was by your advice that I passed the last winter there. You will remember, that previous to the 20th of the last November, when I embarked for Santa Cruz, I had been confined for the greater part of six months by illness and debility; during a part of that time, by a very distressing cough; and even to the last by such a degree of pulmonary irritability, that I was disqualified by it alike for action, or study, or conversation. That irritability, and a cough that was troublesome in the morning, continued till my return voyage. But in the course of that voyage my cough left me, my strength increased, and I hailed the sight of my native land with much of the joy of renovated health. For this great blessing, under the good providence of our Father, I felt, and shall ever strongly feel, my great obligations for the faithful and affectionate interest with which you watched over me through my long illness of the last spring, and summer, and autumn, and for the advice which led me to seek relief and comfort in a tropical winter. Nor have your professional attentions and kindness to me been those only of the past year. The spring of several successive years has been to me a season of great, and in some cases of dangerous illness; and in each of these illnesses, you have been to me more than a mere physician. You have been to me as a friend and a brother. Without a thought of other remuneration than the gratification of relieving, and of raising me up, and of preparing me to resume the service from which I had been taken by disease, you were not less devoted to my recovery, than you would have been, even with the expectation of the greatest pecuniary compensation. I am glad, therefore, of an opportunity to acknowledge what I owe to you. But I would do more. It is indeed but little more that I can do. But I can give you the results of my observation and experience during the past winter, touching questions upon which each of us found it difficult to obtain much definite and satisfactory information; yet of great interest to invalids who think of going to Santa Cruz for health. I can give you a copy of a thermometrical journal, which was kept with great care, and for the very purpose of giving you the most exact knowledge of the winter temperature of that island. This, with some of the most important facts and suggestions, upon the topics most nearly concerning the comfort of a winter residence there, is the best return which I can now make to you. Allow me, however, first, in a very few words to give you the little I have gleaned of the history of this island; or rather,

to give you the principal dates in its history.

Santa Cruz, or, as the island is also called, St. Croix, was discovered by Columbus on his second western voyage, on the 14th of November. The Caribs, its inhabitants, called it Ay-ay. Columbus anchored there to obtain water; and while his boat was returning from the shore, a skirmish took place with some of the natives, in which several of them were captured. These captives were carried to Spain. 1625, the English and Dutch jointly took possession of the island, which was at that time uninhabited. In 1649, the Dutch were compelled to leave the island, having been driven from it by the superior force of the English. But the triumph of the conquerors was short. 1650, twelve hundred Spaniards from Porto Rico made a descent upon them in the night, burned their habitations, massacred all whom they found under arms, and transported the remainder, with their wives and baggage, to the island of Bermuda. In 1651, the French, under De Vaugalan, obtained possession by the surrender of the Spaniards to his force. The island was then rich in forests. But these were set on fire by the new conquerors, and the conflagration, it is said, continued several months. But the grounds thus cleared were at once extensively cultivated, and are said to have been "incredibly fertile." In 1653, Louis XIV. transferred St. Croix, with St. Kitts, St. Bartholomews and St. Martins, to the Knights of Malta. In 1665, a newly formed West India Company purchased the island of the Order of Malta; and in 1674, this company having been dissolved by a royal edict, the island was again annexed to the French Crown. In 1696, the population is said to have been 147 whites, exclusive of women and children, and 623 blacks. But notwithstanding the extraordinary fertility of the land when the rains were sufficient, yet so frequent and destructive were the droughts at that time, that, at the last named date, the French settlers, having demolished their forts, abandoned the island, and removed to St. Domingo. In 1720 it was uninhabited. About that time, a project for its settlement was formed in England, which, however, was not carried into effect. It was visited by vessels from all nations, till, in 1727, the French captured seven English merchant vessels which were lying there, and took possession of the island. It continued to be the property of France till 1733, when it was sold to a company of merchants in Copenhagen, called the Guinea Company, for £30,750. The rights of this company were afterwards purchased by the King of Denmark. In 1754, the island was carefully surveyed, and divided into plantations, or oblong squares for plantations; each plantation measuring 3000 Danish feet in length, from N. N. West to S. S. East, and 2000 Danish feet in breadth, from E. N. East to W. S. West, and containing 150 acres of land, of 40,000 square feet to the acre. This division of the plantations is continued to this day. In 1801 it was taken by the British, but was restored to Denmark after the possession of it for a few months. Again, in 1807, it was taken by the English, and was held by them till 1815, when it was again restored to the Danes; since which time St. Croix. St. Thomas and St. Johns, have been Danish colonies. Christianstoed, or Bassin, the principal town in St. Croix, and the seat of government, is situated in latitude 17° 45" 11' and in 64° 41" 57' longitude west of Greenwich. Another and smaller town, about fourteen miles from Bassin, is called West End, or Frederickstoed; and to this place principally have invalids hitherto resorted. The language of the Island is English. Its length is from 25 to 30 miles from east to west, and upon an average about 5 or 6 miles in breadth. The high grounds of the island, which make about a third part of it, and which stretch from north to south, are formed of innumerable small swells of land rising one above another, and are very beautiful; and especially as they are seen from shipboard, while sailing along the coast. The highest of them are from 12 to 1400 feet above the level of the sea.

I shall have occasion hereafter to speak of the mitigated form of slavery in the Danish Islands, and of the productions and interior condition of Santa Cruz. I will now, in the first place, give you my tables of its temperature, from the 7th of December, 1836, the day after my arrival there, to the 8th of May, 1837, the day on which I embarked

for home.

DECEMBER, 1836.

-	-						CLI
	6½ A. M.	9 A. M.	12.	8 63 P. M.	6 P. M.	9 P. M.	Daily variation.
7	78		80	79	"	77	3
8	76	79	80	80	771	78	4
9	751	751	751	76	75	75	1
10	733	761	791	79	773	761	4 1 5‡
11	74	78	78	763	$76\frac{7}{2}$	761	4
12		75	70	70	77	76	4
	$72\frac{1}{2}$	76	77½ 76 78¼ 80½	76 76 <u>1</u>	76	751	4 5 21
14	74	76	76	761	74 76 <u>1</u>	75	21
	73	76	781	$78\frac{1}{2}$	761	75	51
16	73	78	801	80	77	761	71
17	75	78	80½ 81½ 79	80	78	77	5½ 7½ 5½ 3½ 3½ 3½
18	78	79	813	80	771	761	31
	76	771	79	791	773	78	31
20	75	761	70	701	77	761	4 5 4 6
21	75	77	80	$79\frac{1}{2}$ $78\frac{1}{2}$ $76\frac{1}{2}$	77	76	5
22	751	77	781	781	76	741	4
23	72	76	78	761	74	741	6
24	73½ 73	761	178	773	76	731	41
25	73	761	761	76	731	73	31
26	73	761 761	761 771	76	74	73	41
27	73	74	1741	176	75	74	3
	73	76	78	77	751	74	5
	72	741	78 76	77 771 761	763	74	51
30	70	73	75	761	74	73	61
31	731	75	761	763	75	74	5 5½ 6¼ 3¼

Extremes of temperature in twenty-six days, 70, and 81 1-2.

Greatest variation on any day, 7 1-2 degrees. The least variation on any day, 1 degree.

The mean temperature of this month, 75 3-4 degrees.

Frequent small showers fell during this month, but no one which continued longer than from five to ten minutes. These showers came with short premonition of their approach; and great care was required, while taking a ride or drive, not to be wet by them.

JANUARY, 1837.

100	M.	M.		M.	M.	M.	Daily variation
	64 A	9 A.	12.	3 P.	6 P.	73 73	Varia
1		743	77	761	74	73	
2	72	$74\frac{1}{2}$	78	78 80½	76	75	5½ 6 4½ 2½ 3½ 5
3	76	$76\frac{5}{2}$	80	$80\frac{1}{2}$	78	78	41
4	74	75	751	$76\frac{1}{2}$	76	76 77½	21
5	$76\frac{1}{2}$	771	80	80	$78\frac{3}{4}$	771	$3\frac{1}{2}$
6	76	$78\frac{7}{2}$	801	81	79	78	5
7	76 76	79	80	81	79	77	5
8	76	75	761	78	78	77	3
	74	77	80	78	78 78	751	6
10	74	77 78½	801	79	773	76	5
11	74	$ 78\frac{1}{2}$	80	79 781	76	754	6
12	75 74	77	100	185	761	76	31
13	74	771	781	781	76	75	41
14	74	77	78	781		$74\frac{1}{2}$	41
15	74	78	782	782	781	77	41
16	731	1772	771		76	75	42
17	73	771	79	79	76	75	4½ 6 4 6½ 5 5½
18	74 74	78	78	78	77	761	4
19	74	80	80± 80 80	791		78	0.5
20	75	79	80	80	78	76	51
21	743	179	100	79	78	76	05
22	73	78	804	801	80	76	7½ 7 4½
20	73	76	77 801	80	78	76	111
24	76	79	701	80 78	78 76 <u>1</u>	76 76	91
00	76 75 <u>1</u>	77	78	708	705	76	2½ 5 4½
20	76	79	80	79	77 76	76 76	11
90	76	78	77	80	76	751	9
90	74	77	180	77	78	755 78	2 64
30	76	78	81	80	77	78	51
31	76	78	81	80	77	76	5

The extremes of temperature this month were 71 1-2, and 81 3-4.

The greatest variation of temperature on any day was 7 1-2 degrees. The smallest variation on any day was 2 1-2 degrees.

The mean temperature of the month

Frequent small showers occurred in this, as in the preceding month, but with less

frequency at its close.

I passed the months of December and January at Fredericksteed, or West End.
During that time, I lived in No. 10 Strand
Street, and my thermometer was suspended in the coolest part of the hall of that house. The house fronts west, and is open also to the east; and has a constant draft through its hall whenever the wind is fa-vorable to a passage through it.

FEBRUARY, 1837.

						-		
61	M.	M.		M.	M.	M.	ily ition.	
	A.	A		انه	P.	P.	Dail	
5	63	6	12	3 P	9	6	Va	
1	77		82	811	761	76	6	
2	741	78	81	79	$76\frac{1}{2}$	76	61	
3	75	78	81	$79\frac{1}{2}$	76	76	6	
4	751	77	771	79	76	76	31	
5	74	771	78		76	76	5	
6	741	78	81	$80\frac{1}{2}$	78	76	6	
7	74	77	80	79	78	76	6	
	741	771	80		771	74	1 55	
9	741	78	81		78	761	61	
10	751	781	811	81	78	76	6 5	
11	75	77	80	78	76	75	5	
12	75 74	78	813	79	771	76	61	
13	75	781	81	81	78	751	6	
14	751	76	79	741	74	73	31	
	74	76	79	76	751	76	5	
	741	78	79	781	75	75	41	
17	76	78	80	80	77	76	4	
18	751	78	804	79	77	75	43	
	74	79	79	784		731	5	
	74	773		79	77		5	
	74			76	77	75	3	
	73	75	79	791		74	61	
23		79	801		76	76	71	
24	73	76	80	81	76		71	
25	73	791	813	78	76	75	8	
	74	79	811	82	76	75	7½ 8 8 6	
27		78	80	78		75	6	
28	3 74	77	80	77	76	74	6	

On the 1st day of this month I removed to Bassin, the Eastern town of this island; and, till the 22d of the month, lived in a house there upon elevated ground. I thought the air of Bassin drier, and more grateful to the feelings, than that of West End. On the 22d I removed to the Pearl estate, a bleak and almost altogether com-fortless situation. There I remained three weeks, and in that time lost more strength than I had gained in the preceding six or eight weeks.

The extremes of temperature this month

were 73, and 82.

The greatest variation of temperature on any day was 8 degrees. The smallest was 3 degrees.

The mean temperature of the month was

77 1-2 degrees.

There were two short but heavy showers in this month; one on the 8th, and the other on the 14th. Otherwise the weather was clear and very beautiful.

MARCH, 1837.

	M.	M.		M.	M.	M.	ily tion.
	A	80 80	-:	80 78 791 793 80	77 75½	75 74	Dail
	79	6	12.	00	9	6	Va
1	74	80	801	80	77	75	64
2	74	1763	79	78	751	74	6½ 5 8 7 7½
3	72 73 72 <del>1</del>	77½ 78½ 78½	79 80 80 80	791	75 76 76	74	8
4	73	781	80	793	76	74	7
5	721	781	80	80	76	75	71
6	73	175	79	79	76	74	6
7	73 72½ 73 71 70 68½ 71 72 72 71½ 74 74 74 74 75	75 74	79 77½	761	76 73 <u>1</u>	74 72½	6 61
8	70 68 <u>1</u>	74	77	76	731	72	7
9	$68\frac{1}{2}$	74	77 78 77 77 77 77	76 77	75	72	7 9½ 6 8 5½ 7½ 3½ 4 3 6½
10	71	74	77	76	74	174	6
11	72	77	771	80 771	76 75 74	74 74 73	8
12	72	75	77	771	75	74	51
13	711	75	79	178	74	73	71
14	711	74	79 74½	75 78	74	74	31
15	74	76	77	78	76	75	4
16	74	75	76 80 <u>1</u>	177	76	75 74½	3
17	74	78	803	80	78	76	61
18	76	78 79	79 <sup>-</sup> 76½	80 781	77	76	3 21
19	74	76 75½	761	765	75	75	21
20	75	751	76	77	76	75	2 5½
21	74	76	771	791	75	74	51
21 22	74	76	76 77½ 79 77	79 <u>1</u> 78	75 74½	73	6 6 <u>1</u>
23	703	77	77	76 78½	741	74	61
24	671	78	82 80	783	76	74	141
25	72	77	80	78	76	743	8
26	74	78	78	78	751	74	4
27	733	$\frac{78}{79\frac{1}{2}}$	79	781	761	76	14½ 8 4 5½
28	76	80 82	82 84 <del>1</del>	$81\frac{1}{2}$ $83\frac{1}{2}$	77	77	6 7½ 9 3
29	77	82	841	$83\frac{1}{2}$	80	79	71
30	79 75 <del>1</del>	80	84	78°	761	75	9
31	751	76	77	77	75	74	3

A cold northerly wind prevailed from about the 7th, to the 21st of this month. On the 30th there was a heavy rain, which continued to fall for three hours. Perhaps not a sixth part so much had fallen in the preceding four months.

On the 14th of this month I returned to the house, in Bassin, which I had left three weeks before.

The extremes of temperature this month were 67 1-2, and 84 1-2.

The greatest variation of temperature on any day was 14 1-2 degrees. The smallest variation was 2 degrees.

The mean temperature of the month was 74.

APRIL, 1837.

_		A	rkı	14,	103	1.	
The Control	4 A. M.	A. M.	12.	P. M.	P. M.	P. M.	Daily variation.
-	<b>6</b> 3	6		00	9	6	-
1		771	78	77	74	73	5
2	76	79	78	78	761	741	41/2
3	751	791	81	79	76	75	6
4	751	$78\frac{5}{2}$	80	80	77	76	41
5	78	83	85	85	80	78	7
6	77	78	78	81	781	761	41
7	761	79	80	79	78	77	$3\frac{1}{2}$
8	77	79	81	83	79	78	6 7 5
9	791	83	84	85	80	78	7
10	78	80	83	83	81	79	5
11	771	811	81	80	78	78	31
		80	80	80	$78\frac{1}{2}$	781	2 ,
	76	79	78	79	78	77	3
14	77	82	82	821	801	781	51
15	78	83	84	83	81	791	6
16	791	83 811		84	81	79	5
17	78	80	831	811	80	79	51
18	781	813	83	82	80	79	51
19	78	80 82	82	82  S2	80	78	6
	77	82	83	81	80	78	6
21	77	791	80	79	791	80	3
22	783	81	80	80	79	78	3
23	77	80	80	80	79	78	3
24	781	81	81	80	801	781	21
25	791	831	83	83	80	77	6
26	76	82	831	82	80	78	71
27	78	83	84	83	81	781	6
28	78	81	84	82	78	791	6
29	77	791	80	80	79	781	3
30	761	80	84	S2 80 82	80	77	3 71

On the 25th of this month I left Bassin, and returned to West End. At the time of leaving Bassin, the country around it had the appearance of almost utter sterility. The canes were yellow from exhaustion of their moisture, the grass was nearly burnt up, and a number of cattle had died from want of water. At West End we found a beautiful verdure, for frequent small showers had fallen there. But the air had become unelastic, and we all withered under its influence.

The extremes of temperature this month were 73, and 85.

The greatest variation of temperature on any day was 7 1-2. The least variation, 2.

The mean temperature of this month was 76.

MAY, 1837.

401707300	64 A. M.	9 A. M.	12.	3 P. M.	6 P. M.	9 P. M.	Daily variation
1	78	182	84	82	79	178	6
2	77	82	84	813	79	771	7
3	78	81	82	811	80	77	5
4	78	81	82	81	79	77	5 5 9
5	76	84	85	831	80	78	9
6	76	82	82	82	80	77	6
7	76	82	83	82	79	77	7

The extremes of temperature in the first week in May were 76, and 85.

The greatest variation of temperature on any day was 9, and the least variation 5 degrees.

The mean temperature of this week was 80 1-2.

I have not sufficient knowledge of the temperature of the tropical regions, to be able to compare that of Santa Cruz with the temperature of other places in those regions. Of the equability of that of Santa Cruz I need say nothing. The preceding tables will show, that, compared with our own, it is very remarkable. It is, however, worthy of observation, that very small changes, as indicated by the thermometer-for example, of three, four or five degrees-are scarcely less felt, and occasion a scarcely less uncomfortable state of feeling, than changes of eight, ten, or fifteen degrees in our own climate. When the wind comes from the south east, the temperature is as delightful as can be conceived. This is the Trade Wind. But the wind is hardly less variable there, than here. From the east it is even pleasant, and occasions no chill. But when it comes from the north, it is little less uncomfortable than is an east wind with us in July or August. Nor does it unfrequently blow from the north. Nor, when from this direction, is it less disagreeable to those who have been long in the island, and to creoles, than to strangers and invalids. Yet not much will be suffered from it by those who shall be willing, during its continuance, to keep within their rooms, or to make the small change which shall be required in their dress. I had a long and full calico dressing gown, which I was accustomed, when I felt any unpleasant coolness in the atmosphere, to throw over my shoulders; and, wrapped in this gown, I was at once made comfortable after having felt the chill of a northerly wind. gown, I may here also remark, was of great use to me when I came in heated by a walk, or a ride. I used it altogether as a cloak, and gradually cooled myself within it. The temperature of the night is, I believe, seldom below 70, except, perhaps, at an hour before day. I know not that I ever felt the warmth to be so great as to interrupt sleep. I always slept with a window partly open, taking care that there should not be a current of air over the bed; and, except at the approach of morning, I seldom wanted any more covering when in bed, than a single sheet. I would, however, advise an invalid to carry there a piece of carpet, to be laid by his bedside. He will find it difficult to obtain one there, and it will add much to his comfort as a protection from a cold floor. One of the oldest and most intelligent men in the island told me, that he had never known the mercury in the thermometer to be below 68 in February, nor above 92 in August. He had, however, always lived in the town. On the high grounds in the country it fell several times within the past winter, a short time before day, as low as 65. The barometer never varies more than from one to three lines, except in the hurricane months. These months extend from the 25th of July to the 25th of October. Then the fall in the barometer, immediately preceding a hurricane, may be fifteen lines in as many minutes.

It is common to speak of the hurricane months in a manner which intimates, that during these months, there is a constant exposure to successive hurricanes. The fact, however, is far otherwise. There is seldom more than one hurricane within the hurricane season; and the year 1835 passed without one. Yet this is a visitation always looked for during the above named term; and bars and cords are then kept in constant readiness, for the security of windows and doors. A hurricane seldom lasts longer than six hours. Yet within this space, it can produce wide spread and terrible desolation. It has, to a great extent, denuded Santa Cruz of its trees; and is the principal cause to which is ascribed the small quantity of fruit, compared with that which a stranger

would have expected to have found there.

In view of the temperature of this island, it will be perceived that the change is a very great one which is made by going there from any part of New England, either in November, or in one of our winter months; and no one, and especially no invalid, should make this change, who shall not previously have resolved that he will faithfully conform to the new conditions of life and comfort under which he will there find himself. One of these conditions, and a very important one, is, that he should neither too suddenly, nor to too great an extent, make a change of his clothing there. For example, in embarking for Santa Cruz, we leave a cold, and it may be a winter climate, in which we have worn winter garments, and perhaps have been in the daily enjoyment of a generous winter fire. Nor, till we shall have reached the latitude of 35, or perhaps of 30, shall we begin to feel the softened atmosphere of a southern sky. Not only an invalid, therefore, but even a healthy man, will of course continue to wear his winter garments during half, or it may be, more than half of his voyage. But in his way from the latitude of 30, to 20, and to 17, the latitude of St. Croix, every day and hour will bring him nearer to the warmth of midsummer at home. The heat, not only at midday, but in his state-room at night, may be very oppressive. A very considerable change of dress, under these circumstances, may be safely made by the healthy and vigorous. But it is not so with an invalid. Neither on shipboard nor on shore, will he be safe from the influence of changes of temperature, should he wear a coat or pantaloons lighter than of thin kersimere, or of thin woolen of some sort. Nor should he in any case cast aside his flannel waistcoat, except at night, when indeed it should never be worn. He may substitute a new and thin, for an old and thickened flannel; and, should he find the heat enfeebling, cotton drawers may be substituted for flannel. But even this change should be cautiously made. Thin worsted socks also will now be found more comfortable than cotton; and shoes should be worn of a sufficient thickness to secure the wearer from feeling the

cold damp of the ground, should he at any time find it necessary to walk over such ground. The thin summer boots which are worn here will indeed be found preferable to shoes, especially as a protection against the stings of musquitoes, to which every day and everywhere there will be more or less exposure. On this topic I need only add, that the common hat of the West Indies is the Panama hat. But it is uncomfortably heavy. A broad-brimmed, and light white beaver, or wool hat, will be found far more agreeable. The roads in the country, and the streets at West End, are covered with marl, which gives a painful brilliancy to the light. Not only, therefore, will a broad brim to the hat be found a great convenience, as a protection of the eyes, but I would advise every one who shall go there to carry with him spectacles with colored glass, and a light umbrella to be used as a parasol. This parasol will be far more frequently needed, than a larger and heavier umbrella for protection against the rain. I give you this detail, because the particulars comprehended in it were daily forced upon my attention, by the observation and experience of the last winter. A cold may be taken in an hour, as well as in a day; and a large proportion of the colds, from which have resulted the diseases which have terminated in death, have been from short exposures, and might have been avoided by a proper attention to clothing with respect to the exigency of the time. [Te be continued.]

#### A SINGULAR CASE.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

Mrs. F. was confined, with her first child, in March, 1835. Nothing uncommon occurred during labor. After the delivery of the secundines, bemorrhage commenced. Dr. K., her accoucheur, employed such remedies as were at hand, and among others, the tampon. The hæmorrhage subsided, and Dr. K., being called to another patient, left her, with directions to keep her cool and quiet. The doctor returned in a few hours; found her in considerable pain, but no hæmorrhage; directed an anodyne, elix. paregoric, and requested Mrs. S., the mother of the patient, to remove the cloths in the morning. The following day the Dr. called, and made inquiry of Mrs. S. whether she had done as directed. She replied, "I removed all I could find." She had at this time considerable pain, for which an anodyne was prescribed. In a few days from the time of her accouchment the lochia became rather profuse and quite fætid. She continued in this condition four or five weeks, with the lochia increasing in quantity and foetor. She was unable to leave her bed, and it was thought best to have counsel. Dr. W., an aged physician of respectability and much experience, met Dr. K. Dr. W. made inquiries in relation to her labor and condition up to the time, and inquired in regard to the uterus, whether all was right. Dr. K. replied in the affirmative. Dr. W. did not make any examination per vaginam-thought it not necessary, from the representations made him by Dr. K. Some little change in the constitutional remedies was the

result of the consultation. She improved somewhat in strength under treatment, and after a short time was able to leave her bed, but could not sit down, and could walk only when the perineum was sustained by the hand, as the weight and pressure of something hurt her very considerably. She contrived a suspensory bandage, which added much to her comfort, although the continual discharge made it uncomfortable to wear. At this time the discharge from the vagina was profuse and intolerably feetid.

At the expiration of some four months, her sufferings being very severe, she concluded to have still further advice. Dr. McG. was called, who met Dr. K. An examination was had. They found something low in the vagina, around which, Dr. McG. remarked, he could pass his finger; that whatever it should prove to be, it was tender to the touch, or that an examination, on account of the increased sensibility of the parts, was painful. They did not, however, arrive at any definite conclusion as regarded the pathology of her case, but concluded to have another consultation the next week, which, however, did not take place. About this time she commenced using injections, with the view of keep-

ing the parts clean, and thus obviating fœtor.

She passed along without any favorable change until another four months had expired, alike offensive to herself and to all about her, suffering not only from the stench, but from pain and the excoriating effects of the discharge, bandage, &c., until her sufferings became absolutely insupportable. She concluded to make one more effort to obtain relief, and sent for Dr. H., who visited her, made an examination, called her difficulty a retroversion of the uterus, directed injections of a solution of creosote, and left her. The directions of Dr. H. gave her no relief, and she gave up all idea of again being restored to health. From time to time, when she had felt more than usual the "falling down," as she called it, she had, as well as she could, endeavored to see what it was that troubled her so much, and had remarked, through her mother, to Dr. K., that it looked like coarse threads passing over each other. The doctor said it might be the vessels of the womb enlarged.

Thus she suffered from week to week, and from month to month, without any alleviation, until about the middle of the month of April, 1836. In one of her examinations at this time, she found the appearance and color of the thing had changed, and become quite dark. She made up her mind fully that the womb was mortified, and thought, as a matter of course, that she must die. She called some of her female friends, stated to them her fears, and asked their advice. They decided upon an autopsical examination. They found something of a dark color low in the vagina, and from it hung some shreds, looking like decayed animal matter. These they carefully detached, and on a minute inspection concluded they were composed of materials with which they were better acquainted than they were with the tissues of the human system, even linen threads. Dr. K. was immediately sent for. He came, and removed from the vagina the one half of a coarse linen pillow case, which he had thirteen months before placed there in the shape of a tampon. The offensive discharge immediately ceased, her health and strength returned rapidly, and in a short time she was well, and, I may

now add, has borne twins.

These facts (for facts they are) require at my hands no comment. If the circumstances here related will serve to impress more strongly upon the mind of the young practitioner the importance of removing the tampon when it may have been judiciously applied, and of care in making examinations per vaginam, the reporter of this case will feel himself abundantly rewarded.

Should the tampon ever be applied after delivery at the full period of

utero-gestation?
Cayuga Co., N. Y., June, 1837.

# CASE OF DRY GANGRENE SUCCESSFULLY TREATED.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

Sin,—I have drawn up a sketch of a case of gangrena necrosis of Good, which, if you think worthy an insertion in your Journal, I shall

not think my labor is spent for naught.

Mrs. G., an Irish woman, was delivered of a female infant at the Lyingin Hospital, Boston, according to her statement, Nov. 26, 1836. The child did well and evinced every mark of health up to the 14th or 15th of Feb., 1837, when at night the mother noticed the following symptoms: vomiting, restlessness, jactitation, thirst, heat of the skin, &c. These symptoms continued, and the next day two or more livid spots were noticed on the nates, nearly the size of the adult finger nail. The skin by this time began to shrink, became livid, dry and dusky. The eyes presented a peculiar appearance, being partly rolled up in their sockets. They had the appearance of great distress of body and mind, and seemed to sparkle with brightness; projecting, as it were, from their orbits, it seemed as if they would fly from the head of the little sufferer.

These symptoms continued, with little or no mitigation, but with an addition of many others, till Feb. 28th, when I was called to see it. I found it struggling in agony. All the symptoms above named were present, and others, as screaming, clonic spasms and sloughing of the The pulse were quick, so much so that it was not easy to count them. The skin was shrivelled, livid, very dry and inelastic. There was much emaciation, the patient appearing to be little else than "skin and bone." More than one third of the flesh of the nates had been thrown off, leaving a surface very tender to the touch, red and bleeding. On the right natis, was a piece of deadened flesh, as large, upon the exterior surface, as the three principal fingers of the adult hand. It was black, dry, and hard as wood. The surrounding parts were emaciated and withered, evidently showing that the animal oil, flesh and fluids, were absorbed; "mummiæ instar pars affecta."-Prof. Frank. appetite was morbidly keen; it would take almost anything into the stomach, but would immediately reject it. This had been a uniform symptom, according to the statement of the mother.

Upon a close examination, I thought the natural indication was a

want of vitality in the parts affected. I prescribed a poultice to be made of the settlings of beer and Indian meal, to be applied to the surfaces of the disorganized parts, and a half grain of opium to be given every six hours unless the vomiting abated. I directed the mother to let it nurse what it would take. I called the next day, and the symptoms were somewhat relieved. The child had rested some in the night, and the vomiting was less urgent. I directed a poultice to be applied every night, and the opiate as before, to be continued three or four days. My object was to put the functions under the influence of opium, so far as possible and not produce narcotic effects on the brain. At the expiration of this time I saw it; the disorganizing process had stopped, and granulations had commenced. At some points there was an excess, and I used the caustic to take them down. I raised the dead substance from the natis. It extended beneath nearly to the sacrum, in the central point, and the line of demarkation was very distinct between the mortified part and the more healthy. It left an irritable surface, from which oozed a very little blood. I stopped the use of the poultice, and ordered dressings of lint and simple cerate for the local treatment, and opiates to be continued as often as one in six hours, unless quiet with less. 1 continued this treatment for a week, with little variation, when the constitutional symptoms were evidently relieved, and the healing process was fully established. The stomach being still irritable, it eructated the medicine and nearly everything else, so that it was impossible to produce perfect quietude of the functions by this treatment. However, concluding it as good as any I could devise, I continued it.

In two weeks the symptoms were considerably mitigated; the stomach less irritable, the spasms of the muscular system less urgent, the aspect of the eye less strained and wild; the healing of the parts was going on, but slowly. The bowels had become tight, for which oleum ricini was used. The patient had at this time much sweating most of the time, and particularly nights. This symptom was successfully treated with the acid sulp. arom. dil. v. gtts. given at night in a spoonful of water. The bowels became more regular, and the patient continued to improve, slowly but steadily, under this treatment, with very little variation, up to the 20th of June, when the skin of the nates was considerably well organized. The functions were pretty well restored to healthy action, and the child bright and lively. Having some reason to suppose the milk of the mother contained properties which had an effect to keep up the disease, I advised her to take it from the breast and put it upon a diet of cow's milk, which was complied with, and the patient will probably Respectfully yours, &c. do well.

MOODY MANSUR.

Lowell, June 27th, 1837.

# BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

### BOSTON, JULY 12, 1837.

#### DISEASES OF THE KNEE-JOINT.\*

THE author of the last annual discourse before the Massachusetts Medical Society, being strictly a matter of fact man, instead of attempting to surprise the audience with poetical images, addressed himself to plain practical men on a topic that could not be otherwise than interesting. Practitioners find themselves obliged, from motives of interest, were they under no moral obligations to society, to study the nature of diseases, and therefore avail themselves of every opportunity of acquiring information from those whose sphere of action has been equal to their skill and ambition. Dr. Hayward's diligent course in the field of clinical surgery led the fellows of the Society whom he was selected to address, to expect something of real utility. In this they were not disappointed. Here is a treatise on the various diseases of one of the most essential articulations of the body, all compressed into the narrow limits of twenty-eight pages. It would be delightful, in after years, to discover this to be merely a chapter of some great quarto, even now in embryo, which is to be a memorial of the author's labors in operative surgery. The lament that our surgeons are all cutters, instead of writers, is not peculiar to this office. However, a redeeming spirit seems to be abroad. Since the publication of Dr. Warren's splendid work, a new impulse, at least, has been manifested, and things may yet wear a still brighter

The narrow limits to which we are confined, preclude the possibility of extracting from this discourse, in the order which would be desirable. Here and there, only, a paragraph can be taken by way of specimen. The following might be committed to memory, to good profit.

"Of inflammation of the synovial membrane.—The synovial membrane, which forms the lining of the interior of the joints, has a close resemblance to the serous membranes. It differs from them, however, slightly in its functions; its office being to secrete the synovia, a fluid which is

similar to serum, but which contains more albumen.

"The synovial membrane is the frequent seat of acute inflammation. It arises sometimes from accidents, sometimes from exposure to cold, and occasionally it comes on without any assignable cause. It is most often met with in those joints that are least protected by the soft parts; and, consequently, it is supposed, that changes of temperature have no small degree of influence in its production. It varies very much in intensity. In severe cases, it is attended with great pain at its commencement, and the general system is much affected, the appetite being impaired or altogether lost, the secretions diminished, and the circulating system highly excited. It is most common in adults, and rarely occurs spontaneously in young chidren.

<sup>\*</sup> A Discourse on some of the Diseases of the Knee-joint; delivered before the Massachusetts Medical Society, at their annual meeting, May 31, 1837. By George Hayward, M.D., Prof. of the Principles of Surgery, and of Clinical Surgery, in Harvard University, and Surgeon to the Massachusetts General Hospital.

"When the whole or the greater part of the synovial membrane is inflamed from the beginning of the attack, the pain is felt throughout the joint, and swelling comes on almost immediately. But when the inflammation is confined, at the onset, as it often is, to one part of the membrane, the pain is also limited to that spot, but extends with the disease. which usually involves the whole articulation. In this case, the swelling is not discoverable at first.

"There is something peculiar about the swelling. The whole joint is not swollen in the beginning; the enlargement is perceptible only in certain parts, as it arises, in the early stages, from an increased secretion of synovia, which distends the ligaments. It is, consequently, most apparent on the anterior and lower part of the thigh, under the extensor muscles, and on each side of the ligament of the patella. At this period a fluctuation can usually be perceived; but if the disease continues, the ligaments become so much thickened by the deposition of fibrin, that it cannot be detected, and the form of the swelling is also changed

"If the inflammation be severe, the integuments are discolored at an early period; but it is no unusual thing, to see this discoloration limited to a part of the joint, and not extending over the whole of it, till the disease has continued for some days. In fact, I have seen some cases, and those not of a very mild character, in which there was only a slight redness on a circumscribed spot during the whole course of the affection. The color is somewhat peculiar, resembling the blush of red that is seen

in the beginning of erysipelatous inflammation."

The treatment embraces, we have reasons for believing, the practice

of the Mass. Gen. Hospital in such cases.

"The treatment of acute synovial inflammation is principally local. Though entire rest of the limb is very important, it is hardly necessary to direct it, as motion gives so much pain that the patient has no disposition to move it.

"Topical bleeding and cold lotions are among the most powerful means of preventing suppuration; but if, notwithstanding their use, this takes place, warm poultices and fomentations must be substituted for them. In severe cases, general bloodletting is sometimes necessary; and in every case, purgatives are useful, and a mild, liquid diet, small in quantity, and slightly nutritious, is the best, as well as the most agreeable. Counter-irritation should be used, if the swelling continues after the active inflammation is subdued."

Again, in an advanced stage of the disease, Dr. Hayward goes on to say, "Among the most important applications are a mixture of olive oil and sulphuric acid, the tartar emetic ointment, and the ammoniated liniment with the tincture of cantharides. In those cases in which there is reason to think that the patient is affected with scrofula, some prepara-

tion of iodine combined with simple cerate may be advantageously employed: either jodine itself, or the hydriodate of soda or potash."

Next, morbid changes of structure of the synovial membrane ; ulcerations of the cartilages; and the diseases of the articulating surfaces of the bones of the knee-joint, are each considered in detail, but, to our regret, there is no room for introducing further extracts at present. Young surgeons, especially, would be much profited by a careful study of this dissertation. As the members of the Society are doubtless in possession of the printed copy, it would be supererogation to urge its claims here.

Dr. Charles Caldwell.—At the expiration of three months, we are able to lay before our readers the report of the Board of Trustees of the Transylvania University, by which Charles Caldwell, M.D., Prof. of the Institutes of Medicine, Clinical Practice, and Medical Jurisprudence, in that institution, was removed from a chair in which he has heretofore taught with distinguished ability and success. No person acquainted with this gentleman can doubt his intellectual strength, nor call in question his qualifications to sustain himself in any department in which he might have been placed. It is peculiarly unfortunate, that in his old age Dr. Caldwell should have pursued the course which this manifesto represents, alike disreputable to himself and vexatious to the institution. It is our fervent desire that the storm which has been a long time raging, may subside into a peaceful calm, and the belligerent parties forget their animosities in a returning spirit of kindness and mutual

forbearance.

"Whereas sundry charges have been filed by Benjamin W. Dudley, professor of anatomy and surgery in Transylvania University, against Charles Caldwell, M.D., professor of the institutes of medicine, clinical surgery and medical jurisprudence in said University, alleging against said Caldwell acts and conduct inconsistent with the duty of said professor to the medical class and to this board, and with being the author of a certain libellous and scandalous publication in a public newspaper called the Louisville Journal, relative to the said Prof. Dudley, calculated not only to excite heat and animosity among the medical professors and their classes, but to bring discredit and ruin upon the Medical Department of the University; - and, notwithstanding this board has given the said Caldwell notice that it would convene on Thursday last to consider of said charges, and have caused him to be served with a copy of said charges, and have remained in session over three days to receive said Caldwell's response or plea to said charges, he, the said Caldwell, hath altogether failed to give to this board his personal attendance—or in any sense to respond to the charges; And whereas, it appears to the satisfaction of this board, that the said Caldwell is now, and has been for several months, actively engaged in depreciating the Medical School of Transylvania, and in causing to be erected at the city of Louisville, a rival institution; and that he has in violation of his duty, availed himself of his situation of professor, to impress it upon the minds of the late attending class, that he was unable to do justice to the class owing to the location of the medical college at Lexington ;-And whereas the said Charles Caldwell did further avail himself of his situation as professor in his valedictory address to the said late attending class, in the presence of the Board of Trustees assembled to confer the degrees on the graduates of said class, to assail the said Professor Dudley by insiduously pretending to give to the said class a definition of lying and falsehood, intended by him to be applied by the class, and all others, to the controversy with the said Dudley, in contempt of this board, and highly unworthy the grave occasion, and the standing and condition of a professor in Transylvania; And whereas, it manifestly appears to this board, that the conduct of the said Caldwell has been, for months past, derogatory to his standing as a member of the faculty, and injurious to the University, so much so, that this Board considers it to be their duty to remove the said professor, Charles Caldwell, M.D. from his professorship, and to dismiss him from all connection with Transylvania University, this board does hereby remove and dismiss the said Charles Caldwell accordingly."

Officers of the Rhode Island Medical Society.—Usher Parsons, President; William Turner, 1st Vice President; Ezekiel Fowler, 2d Vice President; Johnson Gardner, Rec'g Secretary; Thomas H. Webb, Corres. Secretary; David King, Librarian and Cabinet Keeper of the Southern District; Isaac Hartshorn, Librarian and Cabinet Keeper of the Northern District.

CENSORS.—Southern District.—1st. Theophilus C. Dunn, of Newport; 2d. Jabez Holmes, of Bristol; 3d. James Turner, of Newport; 4th.

Peleg Johnson, of Kingston.

Northern District.—1st. Richmond Brownell, of Providence; 2d. Geo. Capron, of do.; 3d. L. L. Miller, of do.; 4th. Jeremiah Williams, of Warren.

Drs. Christopher G. Perry and O. C. Turner, of Newport, were, on recommendation of the Board of Censors, unanimously elected Fellows.

Ergot of Ryc.—Several cases are mentioned in the London Lancet, in which the secale cornutum produced uterine contractions in less than fifteen minutes after its administration. Mr. Bradley, of London, thinks the best mode of preparing the decoction is to grind it in a mill with a little lump sugar, and then boil it in a pan.

Carburetted Hydrogen Gas in Phthisis.—Dr. W. R. Clanny, an English practitioner, has been using, he thinks with success, the carburetted hydrogen gas by inhalation, in a case of marked phthisis pulmonalis. He made use of the common street coal gas, freed from ammoniacal substances by careful ablution in cold water.

Dr. Sigmond, of London, has been elected an Honorary Fellow of the Medical Society of Stockholm, in token of the high sense entertained by the members of that institution of the value of his labors in the promotion of the science of materia medica, a vacancy having arisen amongst the honorary Fellows by the death of Professor Geiger.—London Lancet.

Sudden expansion of the Heart.—In those cases in which death ensues from the introduction of air into the veins, I have myself witnessed, when attending Magendie's experiments at Paris, the animal to drop dead as if struck by lightning; dissection showed us the heart so distended with air as to entirely fill the pericardium. This is a highly interesting fact, as showing how one effect may be produced on an organ by two diametrically opposed causes—sudden deaths by its compression and by its dilatation.—Mr. C. Lees. Dublin Journal, May.

Injuries to the Heart without external marks.—In the last siege of Antwerp by the French, some remarkable cases occurred in which the heart was severely contused, and ruptured, without any external appearances of injury, either to the integuments or ribs; in these cases the death, in some instances instantaneous, was supposed to have been caused by the wind of the bullet. In some of the cases mentioned, a violent acute pneumonia supervened; in others, death followed from an effusion of blood into the cavity of the pleura.—Ibid.

To Correspondents .- Dr. Fish's reply to Dr. Goulding, and Dr. Fuller's remarks on wounds of the rectum, are on file.

DIED,-At West Point, N. Y., William Fraser, M.D., late of Darien, Geo.-At Vicksburg, of paralysis, Dr. James Crump, formerly of Fredericksburg, Va.—At Marlboro', Mass., Dr. Daniel Brigham, 77.—At Portland, Me. Dr. Aaron Porter, 85.

Whole number of deaths in Boston, for the week ending July 8, 41. Males, 20—Females, 21. Consumption, 3—dropsy in the head, 2—malignant tumor of the glands, 1—fits, 3—hooping cough, 4—drowned, 2—smallpox, 2—convulsions, 2—apoplexy, 2—disease of the heatt, 1—infammation of the liver, 1—typhus fever, 1—disease of the brain, 2—infammation of the lungs, 1—spasms, 1—insane, 1—stillborn, 1.

MEDICAL SCHOOL OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY.

THE Medical Lectures in Harvard University will begin on the first Wednesday in November, in Mason street, Boston, at 9 o'clock, A. M., and continue thirteen weeks. For the following four weeks, the Rospital and Dissecting room will be kept open, and some Lectures will be given, without additional expense, to such students as may remain.

The following Courses of Lectures will be delivered to the class of the ensuing season.

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Anatomy, and the Operations of Surgery, by John C. Warren, M.D.

\$15

Chemistry, by John W. Wersten, M.D.

10

Midwifery and Medical Jurisprudence, by Walter Chansing, M.D.

10

Materia Medica and Cinical Medicine, by Jacos Bioglow, M.D.

10

Principles of Surgery and Clinical Surgery, by Gro. Harward, M.D.

10

Theory and Fractice of Physic, by John W. Mass, M.D.

11

The Massachusetts General Hospital is open without fee to students attending the Lectures of the Physicials and surgeons. Clinical Lectures are given several times in each week, and surgical operations are frequent.

To the Medical College is attached a Medical Library, a coatly and attacks.

physicians and surgous:
tions are frequent.
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WALTER CHANNING,
Dean of the Faculty of Medicine.

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June 21.

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